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**Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates holds
directors meeting with Legislative Branch programs**

WINDOW ROCK – Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) held a meeting on Wednesday with the directors of each of the 11 programs under the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch to receive update reports and to address concerns.

“As part of my Speaker Pro Tem obligations, I felt it was important to hold this meeting to get a grasp of where these programs are at and what we need to do to ensure that all program projects continue to move forward, as well as voice any concerns regarding any issues that need to be corrected,” said Pro Tem Bates.

Programs under the legislative branch include: Office of the Speaker, Office of the Auditor General, Office of Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Services, Navajo Labor Commission, Navajo Election Administration, Navajo Utah Commission, Navajo Eastern Land Commission, Navajo Human Rights Commission, Office of Navajo Government Development, and the Navajo Ethics and Rules Office.

Interim Chief of Staff Leonard Gorman facilitated the meeting, and encouraged the directors to identify their program goals and to begin strategizing for the upcoming annual comprehensive budget session. He also urged each director to begin assessing their programs internally to ascertain what areas need improvement or adjustments.

Program directors expressed concerns regarding the status of their programs, as well as offered possible solutions.

Director of the Navajo Eastern Land Commission Larry Rogers, suggested that they meet on a regular basis to provide updates regarding their programs to improve communication.

“I like meeting like this and being able to see what the other programs are working on, and I hope we can continue these meetings because it is beneficial to communicate with one another,” said Rogers.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Gorman said he hopes to continue the Program Director's meetings to ensure that each area receives adequate attention and resources that will lead to improvements.

"Just to conclude our meeting, I certainly think that it's important that we come back together and exchange ideas and thoughts. We are a unit, and there is a need for the continuation for these types of discussions to ensure the branch is very effective and efficient, it's very important," said Gorman.

Gorman said that the director meetings will occur on a monthly basis.

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